

- 23. (New) A kit for zone electrophoresis comprising gels containing gel buffer, said gel buffer comprising benzoic acid and/or a salt of benzoic acid.
- 24. (New) A method for performing gel electrophoresis in immunofixation, comprising:
 - a) preparing samples for electrophoresis;
 - b) applying the samples to a gel containing gel buffer comprising benzoic acid and/or a salt of benzoic acid;
 - c) filling both compartments of an electrophoresis apparatus with compartment buffer which comprises benzoic acid and/or a salt of benzoic acid;
 - d) placing the gel in the electrophoresis apparatus;
 - e) connecting a power supply to the apparatus; and
 - f) applying a voltage to the gel until electrophoresis is complete.
- 25. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the samples are serum or urine.
- 26. (New) The method of claim 24 further comprising the step of performing immunofixation on the gel.
- 27. (New) The method of claim 24 further comprising the steps of:
 - g) blotting the surface of the gel;
 - h) applying fixation reagents and antibodies to the gel;
 - i) incubating the gel with the fixation reagents and antibodies;
 - j) blotting the gel;
 - k) drying the gel;
 - 1) staining the gel;
 - m) destaining the gel; and
 - n) drying the gel.

- 28. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein the gel buffer and/or the compartment buffer comprises a salt of benzoic acid.
- 29. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein the gel buffer and/or the compartment buffer comprises a salt of benzoic acid.
 - (New) The method of claim 29 wherein the salt of benzoic acid is a sodium salt, a potassium salt, a calcium salt, a magnesium salt, or an ammonium salt.
- 31. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein the gel buffer and/or the compartment buffer comprise benzoic acid and/or a salt of benzoic acid at a concentration of 1 to 10 grams/liter.
- 32. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein the gel buffer comprises benzoic acid and/or a salt of benzoic acid at a concentration selected from the group consisting of: 3 to 8 g/L, 3.5 to 8 g/L, 4 to 8 g/L, 4.5 to 8 g/L, 5 to 8 g/L, 5.5 to 8 g/L, 6 to 8 g/L, 6.5 to 8 g/L, 7 to 8 g/L, or 7.5 to 8 g/L.
- 33. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein the gel buffer comprises benzoic acid and/or a salt of benzoic acid at a concentration of 6.5 to 7.5 grams/liter.
- 34. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein the compartment buffer comprises benzoic acid and/or a salt of benzoic acid at a concentration selected from the group consisting of: 1 to 5 g/L, 1.5 to 5 g/L, 2 to 5 g/L, 2.5 to 5 g/L, 3 to 5 g/L, 3.5 to 5 g/L, 4 to 5 g/L, 4.5 to 5 g/L.
- 35. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein the compartment buffer comprises benzoic acid and/or a salt of benzoic acid at a concentration of 3 to 4 grams/liter.